



COMMISSION TO ELIMINATE  
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT FATALITIES

[DRAFT]

## **Not One More Death From Child Abuse and Neglect: 21st Century Strategy for Protecting Our Kids**

As a society, we have access to the knowledge, data, and resources needed to protect the thousands of children who are now dying each year from abuse and neglect. We can save children's lives by increasing public will to apply this knowledge and creating an integrated and effective system to protect children at risk and support vulnerable families long before they reach a crisis.



**Core Components:**

- ***Collective Responsibility for Safety*** The Commission's proactive approach requires a safety-focused ecosystem in which child protective services, health care, public health education, law enforcement, families, and other partners work together toward the common goal of reducing child abuse and neglect fatalities. Recommendations include:
  - State plans to ensure collective responsibility and accountability for preventing fatalities
  - Dual-generation funding strategies to support families and help to break the intergenerational cycle of abuse
  - Flexible resources
- ***Leadership and Accountability.*** Leadership at every level is necessary to create a sense of urgency, sustain attention, drive a collective approach, and shelter this effort from competing priorities. Recommendations include:
  - Federal leadership across agencies
  - State plans that include many social service sectors
  - More effective legislation and policy to support accountability
  - Attention to government-to-government relationships with Tribes as sovereign nations
  - Public-private partnerships
- ***Measurement and Classification.*** Success will require a stronger knowledge base for developing, testing, and implementing strategies that identify and mitigate risk. Recommendations include:
  - Standardized definitions and classification system
  - More accurate, reliable measurement system
  - Population-based surveillance system
  - Improved systems of child death investigation

- Adequate data sets and funding availability for necessary research

**When these three components come together, we are able to apply what we know more effectively to save lives. We do this by:**

- ***Implementing Stronger Child Protection Methods.*** This involves applying what we know *now* to save children's lives, through more effective identification, assessment, and treatment of children and families at risk by child protection agencies and other key partners (e.g., law enforcement, domestic violence services, behavioral health, medicine, education, and others). Recommendations include:
  - A "upstream," preventive approach
  - Evidence-based safety assessment methods
  - Multidisciplinary team investigation and response
  - Priority responses for children and families at risk
  - Evidence-based interventions
- ***Developing New Tools and Strategies to Apply What We Know.*** This reflects the fact that we must continually expand the cutting edge of our capacity to analyze data and employ resources based on the findings to protect vulnerable children. Recommendations include:
  - Predictive analytics
  - Learning from other industries (health care, aviation, etc.)
  - Data integration and information sharing across systems
  - Safety culture